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JOHN G. TORIAN, II (1936-1991)

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**ONEBANE, BERNARD, TORIAN, DIAZ,**

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November 5, 2001

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\*\*\*\*ALSO ADMITTED IN COLORADO

**APPLICATION**

Honorable Philip N. Asprodites  
Commissioner of Conservation  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A  
Ramos Field  
St. Mary, Assumption & Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana

Dear Commissioner Asprodites:

Application is hereby made on behalf of **THE MERIDIAN RESOURCE & EXPLORATION L.L.C.** ("Meridian") for the calling of a public hearing, after ten (10) days legal notice, to consider evidence relative to the issuance of an order pertaining to the following matters related to the Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A in the Ramos Field, St. Mary, Assumption & Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana, for which rules and regulations were adopted and drilling and production units were established by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-H, dated effective September 16, 1998, to-wit:

1. To designate the Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company - Avoca, Inc. No. 1 Well ST 3 as an alternate unit well for the OPERC 5 RA SUA;

2. To designate the unit operator of the OPERC 5 RA SUA, The Meridian Resource & Exploration L.L.C., as operator of the proposed alternate unit well; and
3. To further define the Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A, in the Ramos Field as that gas and condensate bearing interval found between the depths of 19,200 feet and 19,440 feet (electrical log measurements) in the Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company - Avoca, Inc. No. 1 Well, located in Section 36, Township 16 South, Range 13 East;
4. To consider such other matters as may be appropriate and justified by the evidence presented at the hearing.

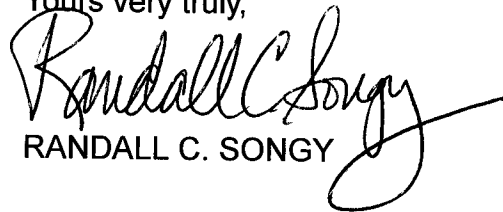
The Operc 5 Sand in the Ramos Field was previously defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 389-H, effective September 16, 1998, and is hereby proposed to be further defined as indicated hereinabove.

Pertinent data relating to the proposed application can be obtained, AT THE COST OF THE REQUESTING PARTY, by contacting Mr. James Hardwick at Cutright & Hardwick, 120 Rue Beauregard, Suite 110, Lafayette, LA 70508 (337)232-7756.

There is attached hereto and made a part hereof a plat outlining the OPERC 5 RA SUA which indicates the location of the existing unit well and the proposed alternate unit well, as well as a list of the names and addresses of the interested parties to whom this unitization proposal is being sent. Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, such list of parties is being furnished ONLY to the Commissioner of Conservation and to the District Manager of the Lafayette District of the Office of Conservation. However, the list of parties will be provided to any party requesting a copy of it. A reasonable effort was made to ascertain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties.

Finally, there is enclosed our check in the sum of \$700.00 payable to the Office of Conservation, representing the required hearing application fee.

Yours very truly,

  
RANDALL C. SONGY

RCS/bad

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard D. Hudson, Lafayette District Manager  
Office of Conservation

All Interested Owners, Represented Parties,  
and Interested Parties

**P.S. To all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties:**

Your receipt of this Application does not require you to take any action. It is meant to notify you of these proceedings so that you have the opportunity to participate if you so desire.

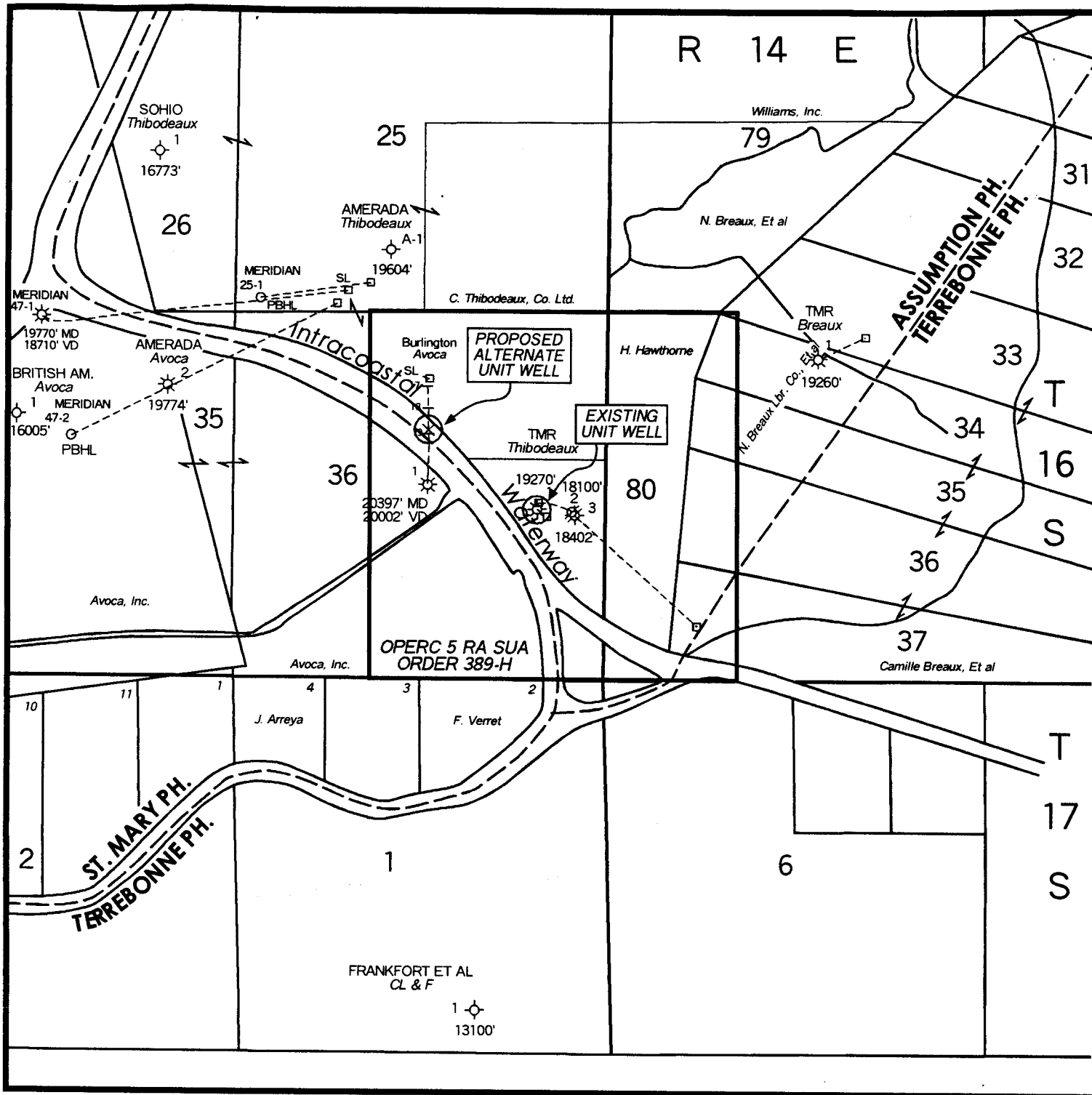


EXHIBIT NO.  
DOCKET NO.

DATE:



THE MERIDIAN RESOURCE & EXPLORATION CO.

RAMOS FIELD  
ASSUMPTION, ST. MARY & TERREBONNE PHOS., LOUISIANA

PROPOSED ALTERNATE UNIT WELL  
OPERC 5 SAND

0 2000' 4000'

GRAPHICS BY: GEOLAND GRAPHICS, LLC LAFAYETTE, LA (337) 233-1887



Cutright & Hardwick  
CONSULTING GEOLOGISTS  
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA (337) 232-7756

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Honorable Philip N. Asprodites  
Commissioner of Conservation  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Allowables  
Burlington Resources - Avoca No. 1 ST 3 Well  
Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A  
Ramos Field  
St. Mary, Assumption & Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana

Dear Commissioner Asprodites:

In connection with the enclosed Application, The Meridian Resource & Exploration L.L.C. ("Meridian") requests that you refrain from granting any kind of allowable to Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company (or any substitute operator) for its Avoca, Inc. No. 1 ST 3 Well (Serial No. 225165) until an order is issued in the docket assigned to our Application. The name of this well may have changed recently as a result of a completion at a point along this directional wellbore beneath a State Lease.

The Burlington-Avoca No. 1 ST 3 Well (hereinafter "the Well") was drilled as a unit well for the CRIS A-2 RB SUA, created by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-G-1, effective November 14, 2000. Both the surface and proposed bottom-hole were located on Meridian leases, and both were also within the geographical boundaries of the OPERC 5 RA SUA. Meridian is currently producing its Thibodeaux No. 1 Well as the unit well for the OPERC 5 RA SUA. Meridian supported the drilling of the Cris A-2 test by farming out to Burlington its leases in the area, but excluding from the farmout any sands above the stratigraphic equivalent of the base of the producing interval in the OPERC 5 RA SUA;

Thibodeaux No. 1 Well, as well as any sands which may be in pressure communication with that interval.

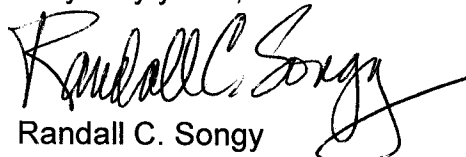
The Well was not productive in the Cris A-2 Sand, but apparently is productive in a sand that Meridian strongly believes is both stratigraphically equivalent to, and in pressure communication with, the productive interval in the OPERC 5 RA SUA; Thibodeaux No. 1 Well. Upon receipt of an intermediate log of the Well, Meridian notified Burlington, via letter dated September 6, 2001, of its aforesaid conclusions, specifically, identifying the interval in question. Burlington continued drilling for its deeper objectives, which turned out non-productive. Notwithstanding Meridian's prior written notice, Burlington chose to complete and test the well in the sand identified by Meridian in its September 6, 2001 letter. Meridian has either already forwarded, or will soon forward, a notice to Burlington requesting it to turn over the Well to Meridian pursuant to the specific terms of the farmout.

We are now concerned that Burlington may seek to produce the Well over Meridian's objection before your office can rule on the controverted issues, contending that it is completed in some non-unitized sand, and we again request that no allowable be issued pending a definitive ruling by your office. Even a conditional allowable is objectionable to Meridian, since Burlington's operation of the Well could result in damage to the reservoir from which the Thibodeaux No. 1 Well is producing.

Please advise if additional information and/or a Commissioner's conference is needed for you to consider this request concerning allowables. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to a representative of Burlington and its counsel.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

  
Randall C. Songy

RCS/bad

Enclosures

Honorable Philip N. Asprodites  
November 5, 2001  
Page 3

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cc: Mr. Bradley J. Rome  
Burlington Resources

Mr. David Smelley, counsel for Burlington